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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/683,381	12/19/2001	Robert A. Cordery	F-442	7716

919 7590 10/23/2003

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EXAMINER

WOO, RICHARD SUKYOON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/683,381

Applicant(s)

CORDERY ET AL.

Examiner

Richard Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

- 1) The amendments of claims 1-8 and the presentation of new claims 9-17 are acknowledged.
- 2) Applicant's arguments filed on August 13, 2003 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The new ground of rejection is necessitated by the new claim including: a contaminant detection hazard detector.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 3) The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
- 4) Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In Claim 16, line 1, the recitation of "the recipient information" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 5) Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoon (US 2003/0136203 A1) in view of Alden (US 2003/0072469 A1).

W.R.T. Claims 1 and 9:

Yoon discloses a system comprising:

a mailbox including a plurality of detectors (114) each including a contaminant detection hazard detector; and

a communication system between the detectors and a computer (137), the computer receiving scan detection data.

However, Yoon does not expressly disclose the system including:

an image scanner for scanning the face of a mail piece;

a scan detection system for providing sender and recipient information;

a server connected to the plurality of hazard detectors for receiving scan detection data, determining a notification method and for communicating the notification to at least one of the sender and the recipient.

Alden teaches, for an anti-terrorist network hardcopy mail scanning and remote viewing system and process, that the invention comprises:

an image scanner for scanning the face of a mail piece (see Figs. 5-9);

a scan detection system for providing sender and recipient information (see Figs. 5-9 and the description thereof);

a server connected to the plurality of hazard detectors for receiving scan detection data, determining a notification method and for communicating the notification to at least one of the sender and the recipient (*Id.*).

Since Alden and Yoon are both from the same field of endeavor of scanning and detecting the potentially hazardous mail, the purpose disclosed by Alden would have been well recognized in the pertinent field of Yoon.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Yoon such that the system includes: an image scanner; a scan detection system; and a server connected to the plurality of hazard detectors, as taught by Alden, for the purpose of providing means for communicating the result of detection data to at least one of the sender and the recipient.

W.R.T. Claim 2:

The modified system of Yoon discloses the secure Internet connection between each system and the server.

W.R.T. Claims 3 and 10:

Yoon discloses a method for communicating a quarantine condition to users comprising:

- detecting the presence of a mail piece;
- detecting source information from the mail piece (see paragraph [0039] on page 2);
- testing the mail piece for hazards (see Figs.); and
- alerting a computer upon detection of a hazard.

However, Yoon does not specifically disclose the method including:
alerting a central server upon detection of a hazard and providing source information to the central server;
determining a notification method; and
notifying at least one user.

Alden teaches, for an anti-terrorist network hardcopy mail scanning and remote viewing system and process, that the invention comprises:
an image scanner for scanning the face of a mail piece (see Figs. 5-9);
a scan detection system for providing sender and recipient information (see Figs. 5-9 and the description thereof);
a server connected to the plurality of hazard detectors for receiving scan detection data, determining a notification method and for communicating the notification to at least one of the sender and the recipient (*Id.*).

Since Alden and Yoon are both from the same field of endeavor of scanning and detecting the potentially hazardous mail, the purpose disclosed by Alden would have been well recognized in the pertinent field of Yoon.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Yoon such that the system alerts the central server upon detection of a hazard and providing source information to the central server; determines a notification method; and notifies at least one user, as

taught by Alden, for the purpose of providing means for communicating the result of detection data to at least one of the sender and the recipient.

W.R.T. Claims 4-8 and 11-17:

The modified method of Yoon discloses:

wherein the source detection includes detecting a destination address and return address (see Figs. of Alden);

wherein the determination of a notification method comprises determining if a valid e-mail address is available for the user (*Id.*);

wherein the determination of a notification method comprises determining if the mail piece address is a valid postal address for the user (see *supra*);

wherein the recipient information comprises a scan (see Fig. 9 of Alden); and determining destination information from the mail piece.

The modified Yoon discloses the invention as recited above but does not expressly disclose the method further including the steps from Claims 7 and 13-15.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a telephone as the notification means; to detect a meter number for the sender information; and to facilitate the existing database to store the sender information because Applicant has not disclosed that the above cited limitations provides an advantage, is used for a particular

purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the modified system of Yoon in view of Alden because the modified system can notify the user of the detection of hazard and further utilize the existing database to include the sender information.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the modified Yoon to obtain the invention as specified in claims.

Conclusion

6) The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

"ECIL venture offers portable scanner – Expects further orders" is cited to show a portable scanner that can screen letters, parcels and small briefcases for any hazard material.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

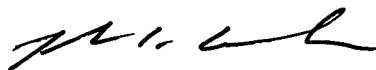
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



Richard Woo
Patent Examiner
GAU 3629
October 17, 2003



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600